

# **Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program**

Annual Report  
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In April 1999, the management of the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program (CMTTP) was transferred from the Miami Laboratory of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research (ACCSTR) at the University of Florida. This report describes the activities and accomplishments of the CMTTP from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

### **Annual Activities of the CMTTP**

1. We have maintained a web site for the CMTTP [<http://accstr.ufl.edu/cmttp.html>]. The web site includes instructions on how to obtain tags and applicators and all of the CMTTP documents:

CMTTP Requesting Tags and Data Policy

CMTTP Protocols for Handling, Tagging, and Measuring Marine Turtles

*Recommendations for Activities Involving Brief Captivity with Non-Invasive or Minimally Invasive Procedures* by L. H. Herbst and E. R. Jacobson

The web site also has the following two documents in Adobe Acrobat pdf format:

CMTTP Tag Request Form

CMTTP Tagging Data Form

2. We have continued this year to invest substantial time in cleaning up the computer files transferred to us. In particular, the NEWTAG database continues to require significant effort. We are still filling in gaps in the database as a result of substantial correspondence with CMTTP participants. We continue to discover, and correct, many errors in the database.
3. From 1 April 2005 through 31 March 2006, we purchased 12,000 Inconel tags (style 681) from National Band and Tag Company. All the tags have a UF return address and offer of a reward. Tag series purchased were TTL000-999, TTM000-999, TTN000-999, TTP000-999, TTR000-999, TTS000-999, TTT000-999, TTV000-999, TTW000-999, TTX000-999, TTY000-999, and TTZ000-999.
4. From 1 April 2005 through 31 March 2006, we distributed a total of 7600 tags and 38 applicators (Table 1). We received all required permits and project descriptions from each of these programs.
5. From 1 April 2005 through 31 March 2006, we received a total of \$3968 in payment for tags and applicators, and an additional \$1158 is promised (Table 1). These funds have been deposited in the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account that we maintain to receive payments for tags and applicators.
6. Table 2 shows the responses that we have received from participants on the allowable use of tagging data by NMFS. If no "Allowable Use" category is checked by the CMTTP collaborator, we assume that these are "No additional use without permission" as stated in the CMTTP Requesting Tags and Data Policy.

7. From 1 April 2005 through 31 March 2006, we received recapture reports for 681 sea turtles. Data were entered into the NEWTAG database, original taggers of the turtles were notified, and the individual reporting the tag was sent tagging information on the turtle and, if appropriate, a reward of \$5.00 per tag.
8. We continue to receive electronic tagging data files from some programs, e.g., St. Lucie Power Plant, Juno Marinelife Center, Blackbeard Island, and Bald Head Island. These files have been converted to Access, and files from each locality for each project have been combined into one file. The CMTTP now has 23 electronic databases plus the 4 CMTTP databases (FIND, PIT, NEWTAG, TAG INVENTORY). In March 1999, the CMTTP had 7 electronic databases in addition to the 4 CMTTP databases.
9. We reviewed individually all hard copy data sheets that were submitted without an electronic file and entered all recaptures into NEWTAG. All original tagging records were filed after their numbers were entered into FINDTAG and/or PITTAG. The number of tagging programs that only submit hard copy data sheets is still significant. We will continue to encourage these CMTTP collaborators to submit their data electronically, as well as hard copies, to lessen the work involved in managing CMTTP databases.
10. We store all CMTTP paperwork in fireproof filing cabinets. Two cabinets were transferred to us from NMFS in 1999 when the ACCSTR assumed responsibility for managing CMTTP. We purchased a third fireproof filing cabinet during 2003 with funds from the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account.

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the funding agency.

Table 1. Number of tags and applicators distributed from 1 April 2005 through 31 March 2006 with cost-recovery information. See Table 3 for organization codes.

Issue Date	Organization	Number of Tags	Number of Applicators	Cost	No funds available	Check Promised	Check Received
4/1/05	SCNR	300	0	\$210			X
4/8/05	GALV	200	0	\$140			X
4/19/05	JUNO	100	2	\$70			X
4/22/05	SVAN	700	3	\$544			X
5/12/05	USVI	500	2	\$386		X	
5/12/05	CULE	200	0	\$140	X		
5/16/05	CINC	100	0	\$70	X		
5/26/05	MMLB	100	0	\$70			X
6/17/05	SVAN	0	1	\$18			X
6/17/05	GALV	100	0	\$70			X
6/24/05	QURI	1000	0	\$700			X
6/24/05	IRLS	200	1	\$158		X	
6/24/05	IRLS	300	1	\$228		X	
6/30/05	IEOM	600	6	\$528			X
8/10/05	ECOI	200	2	\$176			X
8/29/05	AVES	100	0	\$70	X		
10/5/05	NCWR	400	0	\$280			X
10/5/05	HHMP	100	0	\$70			X
10/26/05	MORC	200	4	\$212	X		
10/24/05	RVHD	100	0	\$70			X
12/5/05	ECOI	100	0	\$70			X
12/7/05	ASSH	100	0	\$70	X		
12/16/05	KARU	400	0	\$280	X		
2/2/06	DMRP	200	2	\$176		X	
2/6/06	USVI	0	8	\$144			X
2/8/06	COCO	200	1	\$158			X
2/22/06	ECOI	0	4	\$72			X
3/1/06	ECOI	300	0	\$210			X
3/20/06	MMLB	200	0	\$140		X	
3/21/06	SCNR-SEAMAP	100	0	\$70		X	
3/24/06	GALV	400	0	\$280			X
3/24/06	HHMP	100	1	\$88			X

Table 2. List of allowable use of data approved by CMTTP participants, 1999 - 2006. See Table 3 for organization codes.

Organization	No Additional Use without Permission	Present/ Publish any Data	Present/ Publish my turtles recaptured elsewhere	Present/Publish my recapture data of turtles tagged elsewhere
ASSH	X			
AVES	X			
BBIO		X	X	X
BELZ	X			
BHIC		X	X	X
BOFT	X			
BUIS	X			
CAYM	X			
CHIBIQUI		X	X	X
CHRI	X			
CINC	X			
CITP	X			
CLMC		X	X	X
CMSC		X	X	X
COCO			X	X
COLB		X		
CROW		X		
CSBL	X			
CULE	X			
CWLD	X			
DMRP		X		
ECBI	X			
ECOI		X	X	X
EPCT	X			
FLAQ		X	X	X
GALV	X			
GASU		X		
GDNR	X			
GSML		X	X	X
HBSP		X		
HHMP		X	X	X
IEOM	X			
IRLS	X			
JISL	X			
JUNO	X			
KARU	X			
MDNR	X			
MIAM		X		
MLCC		X	X	X
MLLB	X			
MORC	X			
MPAA	X			
NAIB	X			
NCMF		X	X	X

NCWR		X	X	X
ORSU	X			
PASC		X		
PEYU	X			
PINS	X			
PMSC		X		
PRNR	X			
QURI	X			
REMS		X	X	X
RVHD	X			
SABM		X	X	X
SCNR	X			
SCTY		X		
SCVI	X			
SVAN		X		
TAMU	X			
UNAB	X			
UNGA	X			
USCB		X	X	X
USVI	X			
VIMS	X			
VMSM	X			
WHOL		X		
WTHM	X			

Table 3. The 4-letter codes for the CMTTP collaborators. These codes are maintained in the database "WHOTAGGED".

ABIO:	Applied Biology, Inc.
ACEN:	US Army Corps of Engineers
ANMA:	Anna Maria Turtle Watch Group
AQAM:	Aquarium of the Americas
ASSH:	Ascension Island - St. Helena Hawksbill Project
AVES:	Ministry of Environment, Venezuela (Aves Island Project)
BAHA:	Bahamas, Ministry of Agriculture and Fish (Colin Higgs)
BBIO:	CP&L Brunswick Biology Laboratory
BBIS:	Blackbeard Island NWR, GA
BCAS:	Broward County Audubon Society
BELZ:	Symbios, Belize
BHIC:	Bald Head Island Conservancy
BOFT:	NMFS Beaufort Laboratory
BUIS:	Buck Island National Monument
CAYM:	Cayman Islands Dept. of Environment
CCNS:	Cape Canaveral National Seashore
CFRA:	Cape Florida State Recreation Area
CHIBIQUI:	Chibiqui, Colombia
CHNS:	Cape Hatteras National Seashore
CHRI:	Chelonian Research Institute (Peter Pritchard)
CHWK:	Eddie Chadwick, <u>Mickey Anne</u>
CINC:	The Conservancy, Inc.
CINS:	Cumberland Island National Seashore
CITP:	Little Cumberland Island Turtle Project
CLMC:	Camp LeJeune Marine Corps Base
CLNS:	Cape Lookout National Seashore
CMSC:	Clearwater Marine Science Center
CNWR:	Culebra Island National Wildlife Refuge
COCO:	Coastwise Consulting, Inc.
COLB:	Colombia (Islas del Rosario)
CRCH:	Caretta Research (Charles LeBuff)
CROW:	Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (Sanibel, FL)
CSBL:	Cape San Blas, Gulf Co., FL (Ray Carthy)
CULE:	Culebra Island, Puerto Rico (Carlos Diez)
CWLD:	SeaWorld of Florida
DEFW:	Delaware Fish & Wildlife
DMRP:	Dominican Republic (Yolanda Leon)
DSCM:	Discovery Center Museum
ECBI:	East Coast Biologists
ECOI:	ECO, Inc.
ENPK:	Everglades National Park
EPCT:	Living Seas, EPCOT
FDEP:	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection & Florida Marine Research Institute

FDNR:	Florida Department of Natural Resources & Florida Marine Research Institute
FWCC:	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission & FMRI
FGBS:	Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
FLAQ:	Florida Aquarium, Tampa
FLPS:	Florida Park Service/ Save A Turtle
FPCR:	Florida Power, Crystal River Energy Complex
GALH:	Galveston Headstart Program
GALV:	NMFS Galveston Laboratory non-headstart studies
GASU:	Georgia Southern University (David Rostal)
GDNR:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
GINs:	Gulf Islands National Seashore
GLPZ:	Gladys Porter Zoo
GREF:	Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
GSAF:	Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation
GSML:	Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory (= PANA)
GUCB:	Golfo de Uraba, Caribbean Colombia
GULF:	Gulfarium
HBSP:	Hammocks Beach State Park
HHMP:	Hidden Harbor Marine Environment Project & Turtle Hospital
HIRT:	Harold Hirth - Costa Rica (= UTAH)
HISP:	Huntington Island State Park
HSTR:	Halderman Creek Sea Turtle Research/ H.C. Fish House
IEOM:	Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia Malaga Centre
INMA:	Institute of Marine Affairs
INMS:	Institute of Marine Science, Moorehead City
INPM:	INP - Mexico
IRLS:	Indian River Lagoon South (Michael Bresette)
JCWS:	Johnson Controls World Services
JISL:	Jekyll Island Authority
JSCH:	Jeff Schmid, NMFS-Miami
JUNO:	Marinelife Center of Juno Beach
KARU:	Proyecto Karumbe, Uruguay
KSCF:	Kennedy Space Center, Florida (Mario Mota)
KWAQ:	Key West Aquarium/ Florida Marine Conservancy
LA AZ:	Louisiana Audubon Zoological Park & Gardens
LTIP:	Little Talbot Island State Park
MASS:	Massachusetts Audubon Society
MDNR:	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
MEDC:	Marine Education Ctr/Bureau of Marine Resources: Marine Life Oceanarium
MERR:	Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation Institute, Delaware
MIAM:	NMFS Miami Laboratory
MLFL:	Marineland of Florida
MMLB:	Mote Marine Laboratory
MMSC:	Marine Mammal Stranding Center
MONA:	Mona Island Turtle Project
MORC:	Morocco Project



MPAA:	Mar del Plata Aquarium, Argentina
NAIB:	National Aquarium in Baltimore
NCAQ:	All aquariums in North Carolina
NCCE:	Wilmington (NC) District, Corps of Engineers
NCMF:	North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
NCWR:	North Carolina Wildlife & Resources Commission
NEAQ:	New England Aquarium
NOVA:	Nova Southeastern University, Oceanographic Center
OORF:	Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation (OORF/RVHD)
ORSU:	Oregon State University, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife
OWFL:	OceanWorld of Florida
PANA:	Panacea Institute of Marine Science
PANC:	NMFS Panama City Laboratory
PASC:	NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory
PAUN:	Pan American University
PEYU:	Proyecto Peyu, Argentina
PINS:	Padre Island National Seashore
PMSC:	Ponce Inlet Marine Science Center, Volusia Co., FL
PRNR:	Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
PSEG:	Public Service Electric & Gas
QURI:	Quantum Resources Inc.
REMS:	Research, Environmental & Management Support, VA
RSMS:	Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science (University of Miami)
SABM:	St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association
SADV:	Sam Sadove
SANA:	Caretta Research/Sanibel Island
SCCP:	St. Croix Marine Turtle Conservation Project
SCNR:	SC Department of Natural Resources/ SC Wildlife & Marine Resources
SCTY:	Sarasota County of Natural Resources
SCVI:	USFWS, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
SEAQ:	Miami Seaquarium
SERO:	NMFS Southeast Regional Office
SIRA:	Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area
SJPP:	St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
SLCC:	Shoreline Consulting Co.
SLSTCP:	Sierra Leone Sea Turtle Conservation Project
SMEC:	J. L. Scott Marine Education Center
STCB:	Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire
STIP:	Sea Turtle, Inc., South Padre Island, Texas
STPS:	Sea Turtle Preservation Society
SVAN:	Savannah Science Museum, Inc.
TOPS:	Topsail, NC
TXAM:	Texas A & M University, Institute of Marine Life Sciences
TXPW:	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Sea Rim State Park & USFWS
UNAB:	University of Alabama at Birmingham
UNCF:	University of Central Florida

UNCW: University of North Carolina Wilmington  
UNFL: University of Florida  
UNGA: University of Georgia  
UNKN: Unknown data source  
UNRI: University of Rhode Island  
UNTX: University of Texas Marine Science Institute at Austin  
USCB: Univ. of South Carolina Beaufort, Pritchards Island Project  
USVI: U. S. Virgin Islands, Department of Wildlife  
UTAH: University of Utah  
UWFL: University of West Florida  
VATC: Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
VIMS: Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
VMSM: Virginia Marine Science Museum  
WHOL: NMFS/NEFC Woods Hole Laboratory  
WTHM: Ross Witham Headstart (FDNR) Program  
WWDL: World Wildlife Fund